



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,580	02/09/2004	Bruce S. Jones	NUKZ 2 00339	3207
27885	7590	06/03/2008	EXAMINER	
FAY SHARPE LLP			MARTIN, LAURA E	
1100 SUPERIOR AVENUE, SEVENTH FLOOR				
CLEVELAND, OH 44114			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/03/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/774,580	Applicant(s) JONES, BRUCE S.
	Examiner LAURA E. MARTIN	Art Unit 2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,14,16,17 and 19-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 16,17 and 19-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/06)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

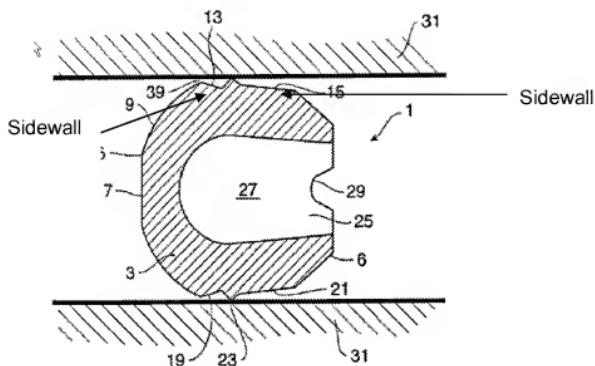
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (US 2002/0130473) in view of Jones et al. (US 20020191059).

Doyle discloses the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a seal member, said seal member comprising a substantially V-shaped first surface extending between opposed side walls (side walls are not defined – the side walls taught by Doyle, as per the examiner's interpretation, can be seen below) of the seal member having a first vertex and a substantially V-shaped second surface having a second vertex (figure 5), said second surface extends between the opposite side walls of the seal member, wherein said first surface faces away from said second surface (figure 5), wherein said surfaces are on opposite exterior sides of said member, and said surfaces are adapted to be compressed when said seal member is installed in said outlet passage [0019].



As per claim 11: the seal member engages an inner wall of said outlet passage (figure 5, element 31).

Doyle does not disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a housing having a chamber formed therein for receiving ink and a surface including an outlet passage communicating with the chamber and through which ink is dispensed; and an air impermeable, non-porous seal member.

As per claim 7: the seal member is formed of a rubber.

As per claim: the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

As per claim 9: the seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber.

As per claim 10: the seal member is formed of a silicone rubber.

Art Unit: 2853

As per claim 12: the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across the first surface of the seal member, said thin membrane adapted to be selectively pierced by a needle of an associated printer.

As per claim 13: the seal member has a substantially disk shape.

As per claim 14: the outlet passage includes a counterbore at an outer terminal end that receives the disk-shaped seal member therein.

Jones et al. discloses the following claim limitations:

As per claim 1: a housing having a chamber formed therein for receiving ink and a surface including an outlet passage communicating with the chamber and through which ink is dispensed; and an air impermeable, non-porous seal member [0007].

As per claim 7: the seal member is formed of a rubber [0008].

As per claim 8: the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) [0008].

As per claim 9: the seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber [0008].

As per claim 10: the seal member is formed of a silicone rubber [0008].

As per claim 12: the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across the first surface of the seal member [0019], said thin membrane adapted to be selectively pierced by a needle of an associated printer [0003].

As per claim 13: the seal member has a substantially disk shape [0019].

As per claim 14: the outlet passage includes a counterbore at an outer terminal end that receives the disk-shaped seal member therein (claim 9).

Art Unit: 2853

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the seal member taught by Doyle with the area where the disclosure of Jones et al. in order to provide low leak rates. Also, it is well known in the art that a seal has a plethora of uses, including plugging a cartridge.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (US 2002/0130473) and Jones et al. (US 20020191059), and further in view of Putman et al. (US 20030081085).

Doyle as modified disclose the following claim limitations:

The ink container of claim 1.

As per claim 5, Doyle discloses a seal being linearly compressed [0019] and figure 5.

As per claim 5: Jones et al. discloses the seal (figure 1, element 28) adapted to be between said cap (figure 1, element below 28) and said outlet passage (figure 1, element 24). While Jones et al. do not specifically teach linear compression, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that if the seal was held in place by the cap between the cap and the outlet port, there would be some type of compression as the seal is being held in place between the two objects.

Doyle as modified does not disclose the following claim limitations:

As per claim 3: a cap member having a recess for receiving said outlet passage.

As per claim 6: the cap is formed of plastic.

Art Unit: 2853

Putman et al. discloses the following claim limitations:

As per claim 3: a cap member having a recess for receiving said outlet passage (figure 1, element 80).

As per claim 6: the cap is formed of plastic [0025].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the ink container and method taught by Doyle as modified with the disclosure of Putman et al. in order to provide for a higher quality ink container with less leaking.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doyle (US 2002/0130473) and Jones et al. (US 20020191059), and further in view of Qingguo et al. (US 20030128257) and Putman et al. (US 20030081085).

Doyle as modified discloses the following claim limitations:

The ink container of claim 1.

Doyle as modified does not disclose the following claim limitations:

The outer terminal end of said outlet passage comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding said cap to said outlet passage.

Qingguo et al. discloses the following claim limitations:

The outer terminal end of said outlet passage comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof (figure 7A).

Art Unit: 2853

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the ink container taught by Doyle as modified with the disclosure of Qingguo et al. in order to provide a better seal.

Putman et al. discloses the following claim limitations:

An outer terminal end of said outlet passage comprising a rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding said cap to said outlet passage [0021] and [0025] (the energy from ultrasonic welding produces heat).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the ink container and method taught by Doyle as modified with the disclosure of Putman et al. in order to provide for a higher quality ink container with less leaking.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/28/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Doyle does not disclose a V-shaped surfaces extending between opposed side walls or a seal member; however, the side walls were not defined. As illustrated in the above Office Action; the V-shaped surface extends between two side walls of a sealed member. The one side wall of Doyle's seal member is surface 13, the other side wall is surface 15. Because the seal is round; side walls 19 and 21 are the same as sidewalls 13 and 15.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura E. Martin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. E. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2853
Laura E. Martin

/Manish S. Shah/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853